

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-144 (Canceled without disclaimer or prejudice)

Please add the following claims:

145. (New) A communications assembly, comprising:
- a portable electrically groundable platform;
 - a shell supported on said portable platform and being electrically grounded thereto, said shell having a plurality of exterior wall portions and housing the electrically powered components therein, said shell fabricated from electrically conductive material;
 - an enclosure having a common exterior wall portion with said shell and being attached thereto, said common exterior wall portion being lined with a magnetic shield material;
 - at least one power supply cable entering said enclosure through said common exterior wall portion and said magnetic shield material; and
 - an articulated communications mast comprising:
 - at least two rigid mast segments pivotally interconnected in series and being supported by said base member, and wherein at least two of said pivotally interconnected mast segments are selectively pivotable relative to each other between positions wherein said at least two pivotably interconnected mast segments are coaxially aligned with each other and other positions wherein said at least two pivotably mast segments are not coaxially aligned relative to each other.
146. (New) The communications assembly of claim 145 wherein said shell is attached to said portable electrically groundable platform by at least one shock absorbing mount and at least one grounding conductor.

147. (New) The communications assembly of claim 146 wherein at least one shock-absorbing mount comprises:

a support base coupled to said portable platform, said support base having an attachment member protruding therefrom for attachment to said shell; and

a flexible member between said support base and said shell.

148. (New) The communications assembly of claim 147 further comprising a leg corresponding to each said shock absorbing mount and coupled to said attachment member such that said flexible member is between said leg and said support base, said leg being coupled to said shell.

149. (New) The communications assembly of claim 148 wherein each said leg is pivotably coupled to said shell.

150. (New) The communications assembly of claim 145 wherein said portable electrically groundable platform comprises:

an electrically conductive frame;

a plurality of wheels mounted to said electrically conductive frame; and

at least one electrically conductive outrigger assembly coupled to said electrically conductive frame and selectively movable between a grounding position and a non-grounding position.

151. (New) The communications assembly of claim 150 wherein said at least one said outrigger assembly is selectively laterally extendable and retractable relative to said electrically conductive frame.

152. (New) The communications assembly of claim 151 wherein said outrigger assembly comprises:

a vertical support housing having a selectively extendable and retractable support leg therein; and

a lateral support member telescopingly received in a corresponding portion of said electrically conductive frame and coupled to said vertical support member such that said vertically support member can be selectively laterally extended and retracted relative to said electrically conductive frame.

153. (New) The communications assembly of claim 152 wherein said selectively extendable and retractable support leg may be selectively extended and retracted relative to the vertical support housing by a crank assembly.

154. (New) The communications assembly of claim 150 wherein said electrically conductive frame supports at least one floor panel thereon.

155. (New) The communications assembly of claim 154 wherein at least one said floor panel is fabricated from wood.

156. (New) The communications assembly of claim 145 wherein said articulated mast is electrically grounded to said portable platform.

157. (New) The communications assembly of claim 145 further comprising power generating means on said portable platform.

158. (New) The communications assembly of claim 157 wherein said power generating means at least comprises at least one battery.

159. (New) The communications assembly of claim 157 wherein said power generating means at least comprises a generator, at least one solar panel or at least one fuel cell.

160. (New) The communications assembly of claim 159 wherein said generator is propane powered.

161. (New) The communications assembly of claim 159 wherein said generator is gasoline powered.

162. (New) The communications assembly of claim 145 wherein an antenna conductor is supported on said articulated communications mast, said antenna conductor entering said enclosure through said common exterior wall portion and said magnetic shield material.

163. (New) An articulated mast, comprising:

a base member;

a first rigid mast segment pivotally coupled to said base member and being selectively movable between a position wherein said first mast segment is coaxially aligned with a portion of said base member and other positions wherein said first mast segment is not coaxially aligned with said base member; and

a second rigid mast segment pivotally interconnected to said first rigid mast segment wherein said first and second rigid mast segments are selectively pivotable relative to each other between positions wherein said first and second rigid mast segments are coaxially aligned with each other and other positions wherein said first and second rigid mast segments are not coaxially aligned relative to each other.

164. (New) The articulated mast of claim 163 further comprising means for pivoting

said first mast segment between said position wherein said first mast segment is coaxially aligned with said portion of said base member and other positions wherein said first mast segment is not coaxially aligned with said base member.

165. (New) The articulated mast of claim 164 wherein said means for pivoting comprises a device selected from the group of devices consisting of a hydraulic cylinder, a pneumatic cylinder, and a stepper motor.

166. (New) The articulated mast of claim 163 wherein said first mast segment is pivotally coupled to said base member by a first joint assembly comprising:
a first hinge block coupled to an end of said base member; and
a second hinge block pivotally hinged to said first hinge block and coupled to an end of said first mast segment.

167. (New) The articulated mast of claim 166 wherein said base member comprises:
a mast post coupled to said portable platform and protruding therefrom and wherein said first hinge block comprises:

a mast socket in said first hinge block, said mast socket sized to receive an end of said mast post therein; and

a first hinge assembly mounting portion on said first hinge block adjacent said mast socket and wherein said second hinge block comprises:

first socket in said second hinge block, said first socket sized to receive an end of said first mast segment therein; and

a second hinge assembly mounting portion on said second hinge block adjacent said first socket and wherein said first joint assembly further comprises a hinge assembly mounted to said first and second hinge assembly mounting portions such that when said first mast segment is coaxially aligned with said

mast post, an end of said first hinge block is in confronting relationship with an end of said second hinge block.

168. (New) The articulated mast of claim 167 further comprising first releasable retaining means for selectively retaining said end of said first hinge block in confronting relationship with said end of said second hinge block.

169. (New) The articulated mast of claim 168 wherein said first releasable retaining means comprises apparatus selected from the group consisting of bolts, pins and clamps.

170. (New) The articulated mast of claim 166 wherein said first and second hinge blocks are fabricated from cast metal.

171. (New) The articulated mast of claim 166 wherein said first and second hinge blocks are fabricated from metal and are of welded construction.

172. (New) The articulated mast of claim 163 wherein said second mast segment is pivotally coupled to an end of said first mast segment.

173. (New) The articulated mast of claim 172 wherein said second mast segment is pivotally coupled to said end of said first mast segment by a second joint assembly comprising:
a third hinge block coupled to the end of said first mast segment; and
a fourth hinge block pivotally hinged to said second hinge block and coupled to an end of said second mast segment.

174. (New) The articulated mast of claim 172 further comprising a third mast segment pivotally coupled to an end of said second mast segment.

175. (New) The articulated mast of claim 174 wherein said third mast segment is pivotally coupled to said second mast segment by a third joint assembly comprising:
a fifth hinge block coupled to another end of said second mast segment; and
a sixth hinge block pivotally hinged to said second hinge block and coupled to an end of said third mast segment.

176. (New) The articulated mast of claim 175 wherein said second mast segment is selectively pivotable relative to said first mast segment from a position wherein said second mast segment is adjacent to said first mast segment and another position wherein said second mast segment is coaxially aligned with said first mast segment.

177. (New) The articulated mast of claim 176 wherein said third mast segment is selectively pivotable between a position wherein said third mast segment is adjacent said second mast segment and another position wherein said third mast segment is coaxially aligned with said second mast segment.

178. (New) The articulated mast of claim 174 wherein said second mast segment is selectively pivotable relative to said first mast segment from a position wherein said second mast segment is coaxially aligned with said first mast segment and another position wherein said second mast segment is adjacent said third mast segment.

179. (New) The articulated mast of claim 178 wherein said third mast segment is selectively pivotable between a position wherein said third mast segment is coaxially aligned with said second mast segment and another position wherein said third mast segment is between said first mast segment and said second mast segment.

180. (New) The articulated mast of claim 174 further comprising an antenna supported by said third mast segment.

181. (New) An articulated mast, comprising:

a base member;

a first rigid mast segment pivotally coupled to said base member and being selectively movable between a position wherein said first mast segment is coaxially aligned with a portion of said base member and other positions wherein said first mast segment is not coaxially aligned with said base member;

a second rigid mast segment pivotally interconnected to said first rigid mast segment wherein said first and second rigid mast segments are selectively pivotable relative to each other between positions wherein said first and second rigid mast segments are coaxially aligned with each other and other positions wherein said first and second rigid mast segments are not coaxially aligned relative to each other;

an apparatus for housing electrically powered components supported on said base member, said apparatus comprising:

an electrically groundable platform having a plurality of legs attached thereto;

a shell supported on said electrically groundable platform and being electrically grounded thereto, said shell having a plurality of exterior wall portions and housing the electrically powered components therein, said shell fabricated from electrically conductive material;

an enclosure having a common exterior wall portion with said shell and being attached thereto, said common exterior wall portion being lined with a magnetic shield material; and

at least one power supply cable entering said enclosure through said common exterior wall portion and said magnetic shield material.

182. (New) The articulated mast of claim 181 wherein said legs comprise leg assemblies that are selectively extendable and retractable.

183. (New) The articulated mast of claim 182 wherein at least one said leg is selectively laterally extendable and retractable relative to said electrically groundable platform.

184. (New) The articulated mast of claim 183 wherein each said leg assembly comprises:

a vertical support housing having a selectively extendable and retractable support leg therein; and

a lateral support member telescopingly received in a corresponding portion of said electrically groundable platform and coupled to said vertical support member such that said vertically support member can be selectively laterally extended and retracted relative to said electrically groundable platform.

185. (New) The articulated mast of claim 184 wherein said selectively extendable and retractable support leg may be selectively extended and retracted relative to the vertical support housing by a crank assembly.

186. (New) The articulated mast of claim 181 wherein said electrically groundable platform comprises an electrically conductive frame.

187. (New) The articulated mast of claim 181 wherein said electrically conductive frame supports at least one floor panel thereon.

188. (New) The articulated mast of claim 187 wherein at least one said floor panel is fabricated from wood.

189. (New) An articulated communications mast, comprising:
a plurality of rigid mast segments wherein at least two said mast segments are interconnected in series and are selectively movable relative to each other between positions wherein said at least two mast segments are coaxially aligned with each other in serial fashion and other positions wherein said at least two mast segments are not coaxially aligned relative to each other;
at least one communication signal device supported by at least one of said mast segments;
and
at least one conductor operably coupling said communication signal device to electronic equipment housed within a shell, said at least one conductor passing into a magnetic shield enclosure coupled to said shell.

190. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 189 wherein at least one of said at least one communication signal devices comprises an antenna.

191. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 189 wherein one of said plurality of said mast segments is attached to a base member.

192. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 189 wherein said plurality of mast segments are movable from a position wherein said mast segments extend vertically from said base member in a coaxially aligned end-to-end orientation to said position wherein said at least two mast segments are not coaxially aligned in a folded position.

193. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 189 wherein said plurality of mast segments are supported on a platform and are movable from a position wherein said mast segments extend vertically from said platform in a coaxially aligned end-to-end orientation to

said position wherein said at least two mast segments are not coaxially aligned in a folded position.

194. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 193 wherein when said mast segments are in said folded position, none of the mast segments extend laterally beyond a perimeter of said platform.

195. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 189 wherein at least two said mast segments are movably interconnected by an actuator for moving said at least two mast segments between said position wherein said at least two mast segments are coaxially aligned with each other and said other positions wherein said at least two mast segments are not coaxially aligned relative to each other.

196. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 195 wherein said actuator is selected from the group of actuators comprising: a hydraulic cylinder, a pneumatic cylinder, and a lead screw/stepper motor.

197. (New) The articulated mast of claim 193 wherein said platform is electrically grounded.

198. (New) The articulated mast of claim 197 wherein said platform is mounted on wheels and has at least two selectively extendable outriggers operably coupled thereto.

199. (New) An articulated communications mast, comprising:
a base member;
a first mast segment having a first end coupled to said base member;
a second mast segment having a first end movably coupled to a second end of said first

mast segment;

a third mast segment having a first end movably coupled to a second end of said second mast segment, said first, second and third mast segments being selectively movable relative to each other between positions wherein said first, second and third mast segments are coaxially aligned with each other in serial fashion and other positions wherein said first second and third mast segments are not coaxially aligned relative to each other; and

at least one communication signal device supported by at least one of said first, second and third mast segments.

200. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 199 wherein said base member comprises a mast post and wherein said first end of said first mast segment is movably attached to an end of said mast post.

201. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 199 wherein said base member is supported on an apparatus for housing electrically powered components comprising:

an electrically groundable portable platform;

a shell supported on said portable platform and being electrically grounded thereto, said shell having a plurality of exterior wall portions and housing the electrically powered components therein, said shell fabricated from electrically conductive material;

an enclosure having a common exterior wall portion with said shell and being attached thereto, said common exterior wall portion being lined with a magnetic shield material; and

at least one power supply cable entering said enclosure through said common exterior wall portion and said magnetic shield material.

202. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 201 wherein said shell is attached to said portable groundable platform by at least one shock absorbing mount and at least one grounding conductor.

203. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 202 wherein at least one shock-absorbing mount comprises:

a support base coupled to said portable platform, said support base having an attachment member protruding therefrom for attachment to said shell; and

a flexible member between said support base and said shell.

204. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 203 further comprising a leg corresponding to each said shock absorbing mount and coupled to said attachment member such that said flexible member is between said leg and said support base, said leg being coupled to said shell.

205. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 204 wherein each said leg is pivotably coupled to said shell.

206. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 201 wherein said portable platform comprises:

an electrically conductive frame;

a plurality of wheels mounted to said electrically conductive frame; and

at least one electrically conductive outrigger assembly coupled to said electrically conductive frame and selectively movable between a grounding position and a non-grounding position.

207. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 206 wherein said at least one said outrigger assembly is selectively laterally extendable and retractable relative to said electrically conductive frame.

208. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 207 wherein said outrigger assembly comprises:

a vertical support housing having a selectively extendable and retractable support leg therein; and

a lateral support member telescopingly received in a corresponding portion of said electrically conductive frame and coupled to said vertical support member such that said vertically support member can be selectively laterally extended and retracted relative to said electrically conductive frame.

209. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 208 wherein said selectively extendable and retractable support leg may be selectively extended and retracted relative to the vertical support housing by a crank assembly.

210. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 206 wherein said electrically conductive frame supports at least one floor panel thereon.

211. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 210 wherein at least one said floor panel is fabricated from wood.

212. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 206 wherein said articulated mast is electrically grounded to said portable platform.

213. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 206 further comprising power generating means on said portable platform.

214. (New) The articulated communications mast of claim 206 wherein an antenna conductor is supported on said articulated mast, said antenna conductor entering said enclosure

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through said common exterior wall portion and said magnetic shield material.